

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION

by the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9 (WTR-5)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Public Notice #: MP-08-W-04

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 (USEPA), is issuing a notice of proposed action under the Clean Water Act (CWA). The USEPA is proposing to issue a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit renewal to:

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P.O. Box 1220
Saipan, MP 96950

The NPDES Permit No. MP0020010 is for the continued discharge of secondary treated wastewater from the CUC - Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) through the Saipan Lagoon within territorial waters of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Sadog Tasi WWTP serves a population of approximately 20,000 people, receiving mainly domestic wastewaters from a network of wastewater collection and transmission facilities known as the Central System. The WWTP provides secondary treatment, and consists of: influent screening, grit removal, aerated biological treatment using activated sludge (waste activated sludge to aerobic digester), clarification (scum to digester), screenings and grit (to municipal solid waste landfill), sludge aerobically, digested sludge chemically conditioned and dewatered using belt filter press, and sludge cake (to municipal solid waste landfill). The Saipan Lagoon Outfall No. 001 discharges to Class A marine receiving waters of Tanapag Harbor of the Philippine Sea, a water of the U.S. Any sampling and monitoring under the proposed permit shall be performed at Outfall No. 001 and/or in the receiving waters.

The Administrative Record, including the permit application, draft permit, fact sheet, comments received (if any), and other relevant documents sent by the applicant for the permit, is available for review and may be obtained by calling or writing the contact listed below. Interested persons may submit written comments on the draft permit during the public comment period to contact listed below. All comments or objections received within 30 days from the date of this notice will be retained and considered in the formulation of the final determinations regarding the permit.

Upon issuance of a final permit decision and response to comments, the USEPA will notify the applicant and persons who submitted written comments or requested notice of the final permit decision. If no comments are submitted on the draft permit, the final permit will become effective three (3) days from the date of mailing. If comments are submitted on the draft permit, the final permit will become effective 33 days from the date of mailing, unless a petition is filed with the Environmental Appeals Board (EAB) to review any conditions of the final permit. Persons filing a request for review must have filed comments on the draft permit or participated in a public hearing.

When public interest warrants, USEPA may schedule a public hearing or may grant an extension of the comment period for the submittal of comments or objections.

Contact: Linh Tran, (415) 972-3511, Tran.Linh@epamail.epa.gov
Website: <http://www.epa.gov/region09/water/npdes/pubnotices.html>